

## Board Resolution

### *Berry Farming Commitment to Sustainable Packaging Goals*

WHEREAS, berry clamshells have served as a responsible end-market for recycled PET for more than 20 years; and

WHEREAS, berry farmers have paid the costs to incorporate recycled PET into berry clamshells, thereby supporting the recycling supply chain for more than 20 years; and

WHEREAS, the PET clamshell is currently the most sustainable berry package in the world - with the lowest greenhouse gas emissions, lowest food waste, and best food safety features; and

WHEREAS, the PET clamshell is currently the only readily available packaging for berries that complies with all applicable U.S. Food and Drug Administration food safety requirements and U.S. Department of Agriculture grade standards; and

WHEREAS, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) fees can be greater than what an average berry farm earns, leading to farm closures and higher food prices; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that berry producers are committed to sustainable packaging - using 100% recycle ready materials and supporting berry clamshells as a responsible end-market for recycled PET without the need to pay duplicative fees of EPR programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, should California or Oregon exclude berry packaging from their respective Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs<sup>1</sup>, California berry producers affirm the following:

1. Recycling Rate Commitment - Achieve a minimum 70 percent recycling rate in California for PET berry clamshells beginning January 1, 2027, through procurement practices that support curbside recycling, material recovery facilities, and recyclers.
2. Verification Commitment - Require that all packaging suppliers provide verifiable proof of purchase, demonstrating that post-consumer thermoform PET was sourced in an amount equal to at least 70 percent of the berry clamshells sold in California and Oregon.
3. Environmental Commitment – continue research, development and commercial-scale trials for compostable packaging and innovation in new materials development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that berry producers call upon all consumers to recycle berry clamshells, so they can be used again to make new clamshells and fuel the engine of a circular economy – generating jobs and economic benefits for local communities.

### **CERTIFICATION**

*Unanimously adopted by the Board of Directors of the California Strawberry Commission on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.*



*Rick Tomlinson, President*

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<sup>1</sup> California Public Resources Code 42041 (w) (4) "Producer" does not include a person who produces, harvests, and packages an agricultural commodity on the site where the agricultural commodity was grown or raised.